

ELIZABETH JANE WEBSTER BROWN

(MRS. RALPH PIERPONT BROWN)

THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Elizabeth Jane Webster Brown

(1890 -)

Mrs. Brown's father, the late Frank Leslie Webster, was an inventor who brought his family to Hawaii from Vancouver, British Columbia in 1904. One of his inventions, a sugar cane loading machine called The Sling, was used by several island plantations in the early 1900's.

As the manager of Pacific Development Company, Mr. Webster conducted the experimental planting of rubber trees at Pahoa, Hawaii. Prior to that he taught carpentry at the Boys' Industrial School at Waialeale.

Elizabeth Jane Webster married Ralph Pierpont Brown, a Honolulu businessman, in 1912. His father, E. Herrick Brown, was a publisher and bookstore owner.

In 1934, when the youngest of her four children was nine, Mrs. Brown went to work for the Work Projects Administration after working briefly with Miss Carrick H. Buck, the first woman judge. In 1957 she retired from government service.

This transcript contains Mrs. Brown's reminiscences about family, friends, Punahou School, old Hawaii and her own experiences before and after coming to the Islands.

Katherine B. Allen, Interviewer

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INTERVIEW WITH ELIZABETH JANE WEBSTER BROWN
(MRS. RALPH PIERPONT BROWN)

In her Kaimuki home, 709 15th Avenue, Honolulu, 96816
May 24, 1972

B: Elizabeth Jane Brown

A: Kathy Allen, Interviewer

A: It's running now (the recorder).

B: Oh. Turn it off.

A: Go on. Just give your name. Start by giving your name.

B: I'm Elizabeth Jane . . .

A: Elizabeth Jane Brown.

B: Elizabeth Jane Brown, the widow of Ralph P. Brown.

A: Maiden name. Your maiden name.

B: My maiden name: Elizabeth Jane Webster.

A: Webster.

B: I was born in Grimsby, Ontario, Canada.

A: Don't touch that (the microphone ON/OFF switch). Just hold it like that, closer to you. Grimsby.

B: In Grimsby. That's just about--just across the Lake Ontario from Toronto, where my mother had lived for years. My mother was Elizabeth Jane Rudd, so I was sort of a namesake.

A: R-U-D-D?

B: R-U double D. She was an only child and her father was a --well, he had a few fruit trees and a vegetable garden and he used to raise vegetables and take to market and so forth. Her mother died when she was just nine years old, so my

mother had rather a hard life from then on. He never married again, so she just took care of the family the best she could or helped him the best she could; worked hard in the garden, bunching the vegetables and so forth for market and he'd take them to market. And she had rather a hard life but her dad bought her a piano and she had six months lessons on it and that's all, because she had to work in the summertime, when the vegetables and so forth were needed. But the only time she went to school, really, was in the wintertime but she loved that piano. And sometimes, she said, she'd sit down and play for hours, then she'd have to rush out and get the work done--get ready--things ready for market before he got back.

And she was married. She was about twenty-seven before she married and they lived in Ontario. Grandpa had divided his place and gave her a home, the part of the property with a home on it and he lived with them, I guess, the first time probably while he built his place. But my dad was just not a farmer.

A: What was your father's name?

B: Frank Leslie Webster.

A: Frank Leslie Webster. Do you remember what year they were married?

B: Mmmmmmm. I'd have to do some figuring.

A: That's all right. How did they meet? Did you ever--did they ever tell about that?

B: Well, I really don't know. I don't know too much about my father's--ah--my father's side of the family at all, because I never met any of them or never heard talk too much about them. His father and mother died, I guess, before I grew up or before I got old enough to ask questions about them, I guess.

A: Was your mother living in Grimsby when she married?

B: No. She was living in Grims--no, that was just afterwards. She was living in Toronto.

A: Toronto.

B: Uh huh. (Yes) But they moved to Grimsby, across the lake, and I guess they probably rented this orchard--a ten acre orchard--peaches that grow so beautifully there. I really don't know too much about my young days at all. I had two older brothers, Paul and Nat--Nathaniel Steven, named after

his grandpa. Then I had a younger brother, Alan--Alan Ambrose.

A: Am . . . what?

B: Ambrose. Ambrose. (she spells it)

A: Ambrose. Alan was spelt how?

B: A . . .

A: L-L-A-N or A-L-A-N?

B: I think it's A double L-A-N but later he left out one of the L's and it was A-L-A-N when he grew up. And then my dad, well, he moved to--they went out to Vancouver. He was sort of a dreamer and a, well, he wasn't a farmer anyway and he just didn't want to stay there and he wanted to go places.

A: Had he started . . . ?

B: No, he had--he'd never worked on the farm, really, and so . . .

A: So what was he doing then at that time he married?

B: Actually I don't know. I know one year that he did something he shouldn't. He went off for a year to Florida and used to write back and what a wonderful place Florida was. But in school, he was quite a good student in--oh, I don't know whether it's what you call it--it was about bugs and butterflies and those kind of things and . . .

A: Zoology or . . . ?

B: I guess so. And I had a--he got a book about it and that was given to him.

A: Entomology! Entomology.

B: And an--but he was a just--turned out to be, later on as I know him, just Jack-of-all trades. He was handy at building and built our own home when we got to Vancouver, for instance. There was, let's see, the four of us children. And when we first got there, we went up to Northwest Bay and I don't know exactly where it is but it was around near Vancouver there and there was just--just three little houses up there at this bay. (laughter) And we had one of them and there was a couple of bachelors lived in--in--I don't know if they lived there but they were there part

of the time and they'd come up for hunting. I'll never forget how their old dog would always come back from hunting trips full of porcupine--pines--that the porcupine would shoot at him. And they'd come over and get my dad to come and help pull them out with the pincers. And I was afraid of them. Well anyway, we were there for quite a little while before we moved to Vancouver. And Vancouver then, it wasn't a big place at the time.

My dad got a job in a--excuse me--in a saw mill, a dollar a day. And he and my two older brothers built this home, two-story place, by themselves. They did a pretty good job of it and, at first, they built it right close to the street so you could just walk into it and they used the front part of the house as a store. And all I remember about the store was, I used to hear one woman who used to come in and she'd say, "I want a loaf of stale bread." That's all I can remember about the store. (laughter)

A: So it must have--they must have had groceries then.

B: They had groceries, just second things. And then my younger sister was born there. Evelyn. Evelyn May.

A: Is May M-A-E or . . .

B: M-A-Y.

A: M-A-Y.

B: Evelyn May. 'Course we were quite thrilled. I was quite thrilled. Let's see, I was seven, I guess, that time. Quite thrilled to have a little baby sister and she was quite a pet in the family. We just loved her.

But when I was--I went to school there; started school at the Strathcona School in the east end of Vancouver.

A: The what school?

B: Strathcona.

A: Strathcona.

B: Strathcona School.

A: S-T-R-A-T-H . . .

B: H-C-O-N-A.

A: C-O-N-A. The way it sounds.

B: And, I don't remember much about school. I know I didn't

study very hard for the first couple of years, I guess, and I--I know I flunked once. From then on, I remember that I went to school and I studied (laughter) so I--from then on, I was a pretty good student and used to get good marks.

A: I'll hold it (the microphone).

B: And 'course we had a wonderful life there. I mean we kids did. There was berry picking in the summertime. My brothers had fun going down to the old swimming hole down at False Creek with all the boys. And a few blocks to the other side was a--that was--turn that off quick (the recorder).

A: It's all right.

B: Was it in that place? They went--they're swimming in one side, but then the inlet, on the other side, then they had a little wharf there and we'd go down there and we'd fish. 'Course with the neighbor kids we just had a wonderful time, just running around wild and having a good time, picking berries and whatnot. But when Mother'd go picking berries, we'd take two or three big twenty-pound lard pails and she'd take us kids and lunch. We'd ride out with a woodsman that had to go out and saw wood or cut down trees. He'd leave us all day picking berries, then bring us home at night. And that was really a lot of fun.

A: Oh yes. A day's outing.

B: Yes. And then my dad got--he worked in the mill, as I say, for a dollar a day most of the time. Then he was sort of a dreamer, an inventor, and he tried to invent. He had a friend that was--worked in the school up in Mount Pleasant and he used to be up with him quite a bit. And he saw--he was doing janitorial work there and sweeping and my dad got the idea, if he could only make a vacuum cleaner, you know, that's what they needed. Well, I'll tell you, our basement was just full of big tubes and all kinds of things that he was working on. He had the right idea, but I guess that was before electricity. He didn't know anything about electricity. And anyway, that just never materialized as a good invention.

Then he got the idea, where from I don't know, but of a gate. A small--he made a model of this little gate. The kids thought it was wonderful. First of all, there was a lever come out and you pull on that lever and it would lift the gate up and open it. And the same lever would close it after you came through. Later, he changed that so that you could ride over something and the pressure would open

the gate and he thought that was pretty good, so he had it patented. And I don't know as he tried to build one there in Vancouver, but he sold out the patent in Vancouver, and took a boat and went down to New Zealand and he built--for a couple of years, he built gates down there and sold them.

And my oldest brother went down, where he was, and stayed down there for a year, but the only job he could get was carrying ice, being an ice boy. (laughter) He was just a teenager. Well, I guess it's still teenager. But anyway, then my dad came back after a couple of years. He was on his way back. 'Course in the meantime we just got along the best we could, I guess. I don't know whether he sent money or not. I don't know how we managed but Mother always seemed to be able to take care of us and we always had enough to eat. I know that we never starved. I know, at one time, she went to work in a factory. It was a pickle factory and fruits and so forth. Canning. And that was just for a short time though.

But when Dad was coming back on the boat, some fellow aboard was interested in hearing about his inventions. He said, "You know, you ought to stop off in Honolulu and build a sugar cane loader. That's what they need there, something to help them load the sugar cane." So he did and he got a job with the Boys' Industrial School out at Waialua as manual training teacher there. And he'd take the boys on hikes and teach them to do carpenter work and various things. But I guess he did a good job, because he was handy at most anything and he liked the boys. [Waialua, Waialeale]

Well anyway, he worked on this and completed what he figured would be a help, which was a big sling that you throw out. The cane had to be loaded on by hand but then when you pulled this together, it drew it together and you could lift it in one great big load. The trouble was, you had to have a machine to go along and that's what they worked on. It took them a year. And 'course Dad was a good talker and he'd always get somebody interested to back him up with the money, because he never had money (laughter)--but--to put into it. So he got Mr. A. A. Wilson to put up the money for it and they sort of had a factory out in the Iwilei section there and they built three cane loaders. And one they sold to Ewa--Ewa Plantation; and one they sent to Kauai; and I think--I'm not sure whether the other's Waipahu or not. There were two on this island (Oahu) and one on Kauai. And they worked fine. The sling was a real success, but this was the days before they had--oh, what do you call that? Anyway, they had to lay portable tracks to run this on and that was . . .

END OF SIDE 1/ 1ST TAPE

A: It's on (the recorder), so you go right ahead. I wanted to ask you who A. A. Wilson is.

B: He's a well known man. I think he's passed away not too awfully long ago.

A: What was he doing at the time that . . . ?

B: Actually, I don't know but he was out at Wahiawa. The Wilsons. I think they called the dam after him--the Wilson Bridge or the Wilson Dam.

A: Oh, really?

B: He had something to do with that.

A: A. A.

B: A. A. Wilson. I never knew what A. A. stood for either. (laughter) But . . . well, as I say, they had to build portable tracks to change to the different fields for the gathering of the cane and it was just--wasn't really . . . really a very good thing, because, you know, it wasn't convenient to do that and all. So he sold his patent of The Sling, which is the main patent--he sold that to--I think it was the Honolulu Iron Works bought it. No. Catton & Neill. Catton & Neill. [Catton, Neill & Co., Ltd.]

A: Who?

B: Catton & Neill.

A: Catton Neill?

B: Catton: C-A-T-T-O-N & Neill. They may be with the Iron Works or not, but Catton & Neill. And he gave that up. About that time, he took up a homestead up in Palolo Valley. Fifteen acres.

A: A what? A homestead?

B: A homestead. It was a way up the valley, up near the end, and 'course he had to go up and live on it, so Mother took Grandfather, who was--came down here with us . . .

A: What was Grandfather's name?

B: Ambrose. Ambrose Rudd. R-U double D. And he took him up and I stayed--we had this--we bought this home on [1612] Anapuni Street, near Wilder, and I stayed there with the two younger children and we went to school. My two older brothers never stayed here to live. They had gone back to Vancouver. They didn't like it down here, I mean to

stay very long. So they had gone back.

But anyway, my dad built this home--little house--on this homestead. And I don't know how come he got interested in rubber. But I think they were thinking of trying it out down here. Anyway, he planted rubber on his homestead. And the rubber trees. And he used to give us kids, I think it was ten cents a hundred to file each side of the point of the seed so that it would open up a little easier when it was planted. And he didn't think much out. Not that he didn't know anything about rubber, or anything, he didn't think much of it, but I know that we kids, when we'd go up there to visit, we had a wonderful time.

And my oldest brother came down--you may not want to hear this--my oldest brother came down to spend Christmas with us--Paul. And he--it was just before Christmas--and he hired a hack--this was before the days of automobiles--and he got a big turkey and a Christmas cake and all the things to go for stuffing the turkey and whatnot, and took my brother and I--I sat in the front seat with him and Alan and Evelyn sat in the back. And I was crazy enough to believe everything he said. He said, "Lizzie," he says, "You know"--as we got up toward Palolo, it had been raining, and the mud--they had just built the Sixth Avenue--is it Sixth Avenue that goes up?--Sixth Avenue road. They had just built it. It was just a dirt road and it had been raining real hard and he says, "You want to watch that front wheel. It might fall off any minute." So of course I watched the front wheel all the way up. (laughter) When we got almost there, just around a little curve to come within sight of the place, there was a landslide came down, almost covered the road. But Paul got us all out of the buggy and took the horse by the head and just eased it around there. Of course later, they dug that back and cleared it before we had to go home. But we had a great day and Mother cooked the turkey and we kids played around in a stream there and just had a wonderful time.

A: So you were maintaining--they were maintaining two homes then: the Anapuni Street home and the Palolo also?

B: Um hmm. [Yes] Um hmm. At that time, I was going to Punahou, and I think, at that time, my brother and sister were still going down to Kaahumanu School. I went there the first year but . . .

A: When did you come to Hawaii?

B: We came in 19 . . . I remember the date. October 24, 1904.

A: Why is it you remember that?

B: I don't know. It's the only date in history I remember.
(laughter)

A: Is it really?

B: Not really but pretty near. But I've always remembered that date. And we came down on--was it the old Aorangi? It was one of the Canadian/Australian boats that took us eight days to get here. Coming down, it was slow.

A: The Aorangi. How is that . . . ?

B: (she spells it)

A: A-O-R . . .

B: A-N-G-I. I think it was the Aorangi.

A: I remember that name.

B: Well, other people--I don't know just who--here in town [Honolulu] were interested in rubber. And since my dad was interested and got to talking to them, they thought maybe he would be a good one to try it. They were trying to plant rubber on the different islands to see whether it would work out or not. So my dad got this job over in Pahoa, Hawaii [as manager of the Pacific Development Company, Kaueleau, P. O. Pahoa. 1908 City Directory] and, of course, Mother and Grandfather went up there. And again I stayed and took care of the two younger ones. We took care of ourselves. In those days it was just so wonderful. It was such a nice, safe place to live. Wonderful little town. I think Fort Street was the center of town. Fort, Alakea, Nuuanu Avenue was the center of town and there wasn't any suburbs anywhere around. And we never locked our doors at night and we kids, girls, we went anywhere. It was never any trouble at all. It was just--we never thought of any trouble. It was just wonderful. But I don't know, I wouldn't, in these times, I wouldn't leave my family alone like that at all, but in those days it was quite all right.

And in the summertime, as I say, Mother and Grandpa went up and stayed with Dad in Pahoa. And he planted rubber trees in the pahoe hoe [lava] around there, around--it was about three miles from Pahoa, really, out toward Kalapana. And all I know is that we kids had a wonderful time in the summer. We'd go up and spend our summer vacation up there. Dad got me a little race horse, a little old retired race horse. And I had never driven--never rode horseback before, but anyway, I enjoyed riding. Ride in for the mail twice a week. Sometimes he'd hitch up the other horses to the

buggy and then he took us out to Kalapana. Old Judge Kamau [Judge William Kamau, Magistrate, Fourth District Court, Puna; P. O. Pahoa. 1909 C. D.] lived there and he had invited us to come out and visit and see Kalapana. That's where the Black Sands is. And so one day, Dad says, "We're going." And I rode horseback and I think my brother took his little donkey along and Dad took Mother and Grandpa and Evelyn in the buggy. And it was a wonderful drive; a wonderful day. And we got there and the beach was wonderful too. There were just a few--I know of three, anyway--Hawaiian families living close to the beach there. We just had a wonderful time there. The ladies were so, so gracious. They showed us their beautiful quilts that they had--they had sewn. And we just had such a nice time with them then.

A: And didn't Judge Kamau give your--you or your father a--something?

B: Yes, a little souvenir. It was a bottle--I suppose you could use it for liquor, anyway--but it was completely covered with a woven . . . what do you call it?

A: Raffia?

B: Raffia. And even the top--it was such a tiny thing--it was just done so beautifully. And I still have that. It's got a little puka [hole] in it but I still have that here. Did I . . . I showed it to you, did I?

A: Yes, you did. Judge Kamau's first name, what was it?

B: I wouldn't know. But it just . . .

A: But it's K-A-M-A-U, isn't it?

B: I think so.

A: Kamau. All right.

B: This was back in 1900--it could have been '06 and '07. I'm not too sure. Anyway, I didn't get up to see the volcano at any time while--in those days. And oh, Kilauea was active and I just thought, well, it's always going to be that way. But then, my brother Nat, he came down and he stayed there for awhile. Stayed with it and enjoyed it. But they finally--it was decided that the main idea for being there was to plant these rubber trees and they just did not do well in the pahoehe. They just didn't do well, so he gave up that job.

Can you turn that off? (the recorder)

- A: Um hm. [Yes] (the recorder is turned off)
- B: . . . didn't smoke, drink, or chew tobacco or any of the things that were done in those days, but . . . and he was good--but he was not--as I say, a dreamer.
- A: He was a dreamer. And so, your mother came with Paul, the oldest boy . . .
- B: She was the more practical. She brought the oldest boy.
- A: She was the practical one, uh huh. And she came first to see that everything was all right and one could make a living here and everything.
- B: Yes. Um hm.
- A: And then she went back.
- B: No, she didn't go back.
- A: She didn't go back?
- B: She just wrote and had this man help Nat, my older brother --I think Nat was sixteen--to sell . . .
- A: Sell the property.
- B: . . . the property. We came on down here.
- A: Then your grandfather came with you, then, on . . .
- B: We brought Grandpa.
- A: All right.
- B: Nat had been on a--oh, I guess when he was just thirteen, fourteen, he took trips from Vancouver to the Orient on the Empress boats. The Empress of China, the Empress of Japan, the Empress of India. He'd go as a--once he was carpenter's boy and once, well, he just worked his way. But he brought back little souvenirs and all and he felt like a man-around-the-world really. He started at thirteen. A wonder they'd take him, but . . .
- A: They did then.
- B: Yes, they did. An experience. But he . . .
- A: He must have been a very responsible boy.

- B: He was a very fine boy but he didn't go throughout--go right through school and he quit school before he was--before he finished the eighth grade. Eighth grade there is the same as the twelfth here, because we took the two years in one grade practically. But I know that when he worked--he had a little express wagon, can you imagine? An express wagon that the kids play with around here. And he was delivery boy. He got three dollars a week for delivering and he also worked at the sugar mill. I don't know whether he was--just what he was doing there.
- A: That was here.
- B: No, that was in Vancouver.
- A: That was Vancouver, 'cause, as you said, the two older boys went back and that would have been Nat and Paul.
- B: I said sugar mill, didn't I?
- A: Yes, you did.
- B: It was--it must have been a sugar mill because I know that he used to bring--have--what's the sugar stuff?
- A: Cane?
- B: It wasn't cane. I don't know whether it's cane or the other kind of sugar.
- A: Maybe it's molasses.
- B: No, it isn't that. It was that . . .
- A: Beet sugar. Beet sugar?
- B: No. Would it be from a maple tree?
- A: It could be.
- B: Well anyway, he used to make enough of this stuff at home. He'd bring some of this syrup home and make it into candy. I can remember that. But the mill was a saw mill where Dad worked and I don't know. But sugar mill. It must have been. We must have had a sugar mill there too. And yet I don't know. I don't know enough about that, whether . . . but I do know that he used to have this stuff and make candy. He couldn't get that out of a saw mill. (laughter)
- A: No.

B: Oh, it's funny.

A: Well, when we left off then, before we got back onto how you came to Hawaii and how your mother came ahead and all, we were at Pahoa and your father--the rubber--he was trying to plant rubber there and it didn't work out in that area and therefore he left that job. Now . . .

B: They just gave up the . . .

A: Gave up the project of planting rubber there.

B: I think the one on Maui--there was a project on Maui at the same time, I think, that really worked all right, 'cause I heard later--I don't know, but I heard later they had rubber growing there. Evidently that was quite a--you know, it was better suited for it. But it was the summer of 1908, I guess it was, we came back home and Mother came home [to Honolulu] and I think Dad went to the Coast. He went to New Orleans and he was going to--somebody told him they needed an invention for the cotton, so I don't know whether he did work out one but from there on we just lost track of him. We just didn't--he didn't write. I know I graduated in 1910 and sent him a graduation notice, but never, never heard from that time on. But . . .

A: What can you remember about your Punahou School days?

B: Well, I started, of course, in the seventh grade. I had gone--when I came down here, I had been out of school for awhile, so I went into the--it must have been the sixth grade down at Kaahumanu. And finished that year and went into the seventh grade. I'm not sure whether it was seventh or not, but anyway I went to Punahou. I started in the seventh grade in the prep school. And at Christmastime, I know that my English composition and my arithmetic were just a little bit ahead of the seventh grade there. At least I thought I knew more than they did. But I had never had anything but English history and Canadian history up until coming down here. I didn't know America existed, I guess, although I lived in the top half. (laughter) But anyway, at Christmastime there was a couple of boys there, a little older than some of the other students, that were going to try and take an exam for the eighth grade and the teacher asked if I didn't want to join them. And I had to study up real hard on my history and evidently I got a good enough mark to pass, so I went into the eighth grade at Christmastime. And then I graduated from the eighth grade in June.

A: That would have been June . . .

B: Six and ten is four. No, wait a minute. No, four from ten is six. That would have been 1906.

A: That would be 1906. Oh.

B: 1906. And then I went for four years to Oahu College. I have never known why it was called Oahu College, but people ask me now, "How come it was Oahu College?" I know that in our song Oahu College was about sixty years old. It must have been sixty years old at that time because we'd go out to the football games and say, "For sixty years we've shown our might." It's part of the song.

A: Yes.

B: So it was still called Oahu College. It wasn't changed to --it was just a high school, of course. And I took the commercial course. And I think, I used to be quite proud of myself. I used to be on the honor roll. Almost every month, Mr. [Arthur Floyd] Griffiths would get up and read the names of those who had had a preponderance of A's and I was almost always on it. I was real proud of myself. But ah . . .

A: Who were some of your classmates that you remember? Do you recall who some of them were?

B: I've got a picture of them in there. Miss Muriel Howatt. She married Ted Cooke later. And Howell Bond was our president--president of our class for at least two years. And Joel Bean Cox. His mother was the history teacher at Punahou. He was one of the smartest students. Harold Gear, Hazel Raseman's brother. He was one of the smart ones. And Lowthian Williams and Oswald Hind, Jack Radway --he worked for the bank for years; and Watson Ballentyne and . . . hmmm. . .

A: It's interesting. You're naming--these are all men, the boys that were in the class. Were there other girls in the class?

B: Yes, but I don't know. I guess I was kinda . . . let's see, there was Adeline Mutch. Oh, Muriel Campbell, who married Robert Shingle, she was in my class. Adeline Mutch. Agnes Buchanan.

A: And what do you remember about the classes in general or in particular? Anybody that stands out in your memory or any incidents that stand out in your memory?

B: We had Clem Akina. He was the wonderful football player.

- A: Yes, sportsman.
- B: And we used to always . . . turn it off a minute (the recorder is turned off).
- A: Harry Steiner.
- B: Yeah . . . and some of them I've forgotten. There's Oswald Hind. (She is showing me the picture she has of the Class of 1910)
- A: Where is Muriel Campbell?
- B: Here (she points her out).
- A: Oh, yes.
- B: And there's Jessie Kennedy and Bill Hoogs and Cordelia Gilman; Ida Ellsworth. Now she is one of the--one of the only classmates that I've seen lately. And she lives up in the Desert Home up in California.
- A: Ida . . . ?
- B: Ida Ellsworth. She married [Ralph] Sunderlin.
- A: Sunderlin.
- B: I don't know his first name. But she was Ida Sunderlin. She comes down to the luaus and meetings almost every year. And Maud Seyde; and Moir girls. There was two [Frances and Louisa]. And . . . oh . . . this was Clem Akina here. And Miriam Farr.
- A: And you were saying about Clem Akina that--after you started talk . . . you mentioned Clem Akina and then you said something about going to the--you always went to the football games and you used to win in those days. Punahou won in those days.
- B: We were pretty good in those days. We had wonderful teams. At least we used to think we did. And I do know that when I was at Punahou there--it must--I don't know exactly the year--it must have been '08 or '09--they dedicated the . . . the grounds--what is it, the football games?
- A: Oh, the football stadium. Not stadium, but it would have been the stadium, the football field.
- B: Football field. And I know that that was one year that I went in for athletics more than any other year. And of all

things, we went out and played a game of hockey at the dedication. Just pretend to play, because actually we never played any games. We used to go out for basketball and tennis and that, but we never actually played hockey. But that year, we went out and hit the ball around a little bit, just because they needed . . .

A: As a demonstration.

B: A demonstration. Um hmm. Most of--a good many of--this is Sarah Pratt--a good many--and Sila Pratt was in our class too. Annie Moir [probably Louisa Agnes Moir] and Edna Curtis from Curtistown, Hawaii. And Gladys Rycroft. She lived--that's--her dad had this Rycroft Soda Works and so forth. I guess it was her dad. It's the same name. Yes, she was in my class.

A: Did you ever hear of a Parmelee [Howard A. Parmelee was president of Hollister Drug Company, Ltd. which also operated Consolidated Soda Water Works, located at the corner of Fort and Allen Streets. 1908 C.D.] Soda Water Factory?

B: No.

A: Parmelee.

B: Parmelee. No, I don't. I don't remember.

A: Rycroft Street, you remember though.

B: I remember Rycroft Street, yes. Well . . .

A: And living at Anapuni Street, Anapuni and Wilder--how could --how could that . . . ? Oh, Anapuni does go this way.

B: It goes up. But it was just two blocks long. Ethelyn, my pal Ethelyn Harris, lived up on the top end of it, the mauka side; and I lived pretty close to Wilder [Street].

A: Ethelyn?

B: Ethelyn. Ethelyn. And 'course she's my pal. We've been pals ever since I came here.

A: What's her name now?

B: She married Frank A. Davis and her husband and her son recently passed away. Or her son recently passed away. But, oh, we just used to have such wonderful times. We had quite a gang on our street with Bill Paty and George

Murray and Abbie Bromley and Ethelyn and Joe . . . oh, what was his name? He was the big shot that went to Washington.

A: Joe Farrington? [Joseph R. Farrington, Delegate to Congress 1942-54]

B: Farrington.

A: Oh, he lived on your street too.

B: He lived on our street in the corner there. [1807 Anapuni Street. 1908 C.D.] He had a big, deep voice. But, as kids, we'd go out on a picnic. We'd get some Mom to fix us some lunch or we'd fix up some lunch and we'd go up on Rocky Hill, just back of Punahou, and we'd play around there. My goodness, we had all kinds of castles and thrones and we had a great time. We'd usually get back by lunch-time and Mother'd say, "I thought you went out on a picnic." "Well, we did, but we ate it early." (laughter) But very often we'd go way up Manoa. There was just dirt roads too and we'd go up as far as the stream and pick Job's tears and play around and have a wonderful time, hiking around. I think kids in those days had so much fun and it was really, really wonderful.

Well, to get back to school, I graduated in 1910 and my first job was just a little temporary job for three weeks. I took the place of the secretary of President [John W.] Gilmore of university [the University of Hawaii]. I think it was only--the university was in its early--I don't know if it was one or two years old at that time. Now I know I worked down in a little wooden building back of Lincoln School [now Linekona School] by the square there. [the University of Hawaii was founded in 1907]

A: Thomas Square.

B: By Thomas Square. And I thought that time, Gee, I'd really like to work for President Gilmore. I liked him so much and I thought of going to college but, of course, I wasn't prepared for it. I didn't know even what you had to do to prepare for college in those days. But I got a job as a secretary for Magoon and Weaver.

A: Magoon and Weaver.

B: Um hmm. [Yes] J. Alfred Magoon, lawyer, and--what was Weaver's first name? Mr. Weaver. He was--we always called him Judge Weaver. He was judge of the . . . real estate . . .

A: Probate!

B: No, not probate.

A: No?

B: Of . . . well, where they record deeds and so forth.

A: Oh yes.

B: Anyway, he was judge of that. So I enjoyed working for him. I enjoyed my work very much.

A: What was President Gilmore's first name, do you recall?

B: Was it Arthur? No. I think I could probably look it up somehow but I'm not too sure.

A: Okay. I just thought you might remember.

B: Could have been Arthur, but I'm not sure.

A: And you worked by Lincoln School. The campus, up where it is now, wasn't there then? The university campus.

B: The university. I don't know whether it was then, at that time, or not but I know that, when I got married in 1912, there were just two buildings on the campus there. Two university buildings. And I can't be too sure, but I think there was just a couple of graduates from the first--from the first year. I mean, first graduates. I think there was just two graduates. I know that the Clark boy was one.

A: Which Clark boy?

B: What was his name? Miriam's brother. Lester Clark. He was one of the first graduates of university. And to look at it now, boy, it's hard to imagine, back in those old days.

A: But the office--the president's office was by Lincoln School.

B: I worked--I worked--I don't think they had moved into it yet. I think that his office was down there. I don't think they had moved into the school. But I just worked there for three weeks and I didn't know much about 'em. All I did was work on his--on his big report. And let's see . . . Guess you'd better turn this off. (the recorder)
[Known as the College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts of Hawaii on May 25, 1905, the College of Hawaii was established by the legislature on March 25, 1907 and opened on September 14, 1908 on Beretania Street near Victoria

Street. It was still located there in 1910 when Mrs. Brown was President John W. Gilmore's temporary secretary. An article about a new building and proposed plan for the campus in Manoa appeared in the August 1911 issue of The Friend.]

END OF SIDE 2/1ST TAPE

BEGINNING OF SIDE 1/2ND TAPE

- A: . . . President Gilmore and, at that time, there were only two buildings at the University of Hawaii--at the campus.
- B: I'm not even sure if they were there at that time. I got married in 1912 and I know at that time there was only two buildings.
- A: Now, after you were through there, you say you worked for Dearborn Chemical.
- B: Dearborn Drug and Chemical [Works].
- A: Dearborn Drug and Chemical.
- B: Yes, for awhile.. And then Lani [Marmion] Magoon asked me if I'd consider a job with his father.
- A: Lani Magoon.
- B: Lani Magoon. And ah--with his father and Judge Weaver. Magoon and Weaver. 'Course I was quite thrilled. I liked the law work and I enjoyed working there. And the book-keeper there was Mary Low. She was an oldtimer. Eben Low's sister, I think.
- A: Yes.
- B: I think it was sister.
- A: Yes.
- B: Eben Low's sister. And of course I heard all kinds of things through her, like the Parker Ranch.
- A: I was going to come to that but, first of all, would you go back to this part and get clear that you knew Lani Magoon from Punahou. Is that it?
- B: I went--well, I don't know whether Lani was in my class. I think he was.
- A: But you knew him from Punahou.

B: Yes.

A: And his father is the Magoon you worked for.

B: Yes, he's the lawyer.

A: And his--what was his name?

B: J. Alfred.

A: J. Alfred Magoon. All right. And you were--then you told about one of the things that you were working on when you first worked there was the Honolulu Amusement Company.

B: It wasn't one of the first ones, but while I was there.

A: Oh, while you were there. Do you recall about what year that was?

B: Well, let's see. Married in 1912, so it must of been in the latter part of 1910 or '11. Probably '11.

A: Would you tell about it now, as you told it before? Some of the things you worked on.

B: Oh, one of the things that I remember working on was the --we drew up the bid--we called it the papers--for the Honolulu Amusement Company. And his son, Lani, was interested in theaters about that time. And I don't know exactly what--I think he had charge of management of it or had something to do with it. And every once in a while, I'd do a letter or two for Lani and he'd give me a couple of free tickets to some of these theaters. There were several theaters.

A: These are movie theaters.

B: Movie theaters, yes. And one I remember especially. Well, that was after I met Ralph [Brown]. He gave me several tickets and Ralph and I took Mother to see--I know it was in a theater right next to the Young Building there. I can't remember the name of it. [The Orpheum Theater was located on Hotel Street, opposite Adams Lane, which is close to the Young Hotel Building.] And to see a show--oh what show is it, the singing, you know, show--the main show . . . you know . . .

A: Actually it was before the talkies at that time, wouldn't it have been? Or it wasn't?

B: Well, I don't know as it was movies. It wasn't really

movies. They had--they had--ah . . .

A: Oh, stage shows! Also.

B: Stage shows and things. But this was--oh, it's a famous . . .

A: "Maytime" or something like that? Operetta?

B: No, it was--she used to sing every song but she had never seen the play. Came out when she was a girl. But she used to sing all of the songs.

A: Oh, your mother did.

B: Uh huh, Mother did. So she really--she certainly--she thoroughly enjoyed seeing that. Well, turn that off a minute and I'll think of it. (the recorder is turned off)

A: It was, you say, Gilbert and Sullivan. "Pirates of Penance . . ." [Penzance]

B: No. No.

A: I know which one you mean. One of the--the most well-known one, in fact.

B: It was one of the first ones, I think, ever to have come out.

A: We'll think of it. I'll put it--jot that down. Gilbert and Sullivan.

B: Well, it'll come to me but right now I can't think of the name of it.

A: All right.

B: But Mother used to sing all of the songs that was in it and had never seen the play when she was young. She worked so hard, she never got to go to many of those things, so she thoroughly enjoyed that show. She never got over it--thinking about it and talking about it. But anyway . . .

A: "H. M. S. Pinafore!"

B: "H. M. S. Pinafore." That's it. Um hmm. Every once in awhile Lani'd give me a ticket to some of the shows for doing some work for him. I didn't get to go to many shows, but I sort of enjoyed them when I did.

- A: You had started to tell about how you met Mr. Brown. How you met him.
- B: Oh yeah. Well, as I said, I belonged to the Christian Church and he belonged to Central Union, but we had a--I don't know whether it was a combination camping ground. I think maybe I just went. Maybe it was their camping ground and I was invited to go by J. C. Ewing, who went to both churches, sometimes ours. And he was in love with one of the girls that went to the other one, so he got to go. Anyway, we went out to--Fred McNamarra, he offered to let us use his yard, right on the beach, and it's right where the YWCA has their place now. That was those grounds.
- A: MacMurray, it was?
- B: Huh?
- A: MacMurray?
- B: No.
- A: What was that man's name? His place.
- B: Oh. McNamarra.
- A: McNamarra.
- B: Yes, Fred McNamarra. He was a little crippled. He was sort of a hunchbacked fellow but he was a wonderful Christian. And he had a--he worked, I know, at the Island Curio. I think perhaps he and his brother had an interest in it and he worked there. [In 1911, Fred McNamarra was the manager of The Island Curio Company, Ltd. and resided at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. 1911 C.D.] But anyway, he offered to let us come out and use his yard right on the beach there. And we had a couple of tents there and there was quite a group from the Central Union Church. I was working, of course, but I'd go out after work and Ralph was there. I'd seen him before because he was a conductor on the HRT [Honolulu Rapid Transit] when he was just about eighteen. He lived up Manoa but his dad had a nervous breakdown and he had to get a job before he graduated from high school. So I never met him in school. From the high school.
- A: Not Punahou.
- B: No, he went to a high school. Honolulu High School. And he got this job as conductor. They used to have a conductor and a motorman in those days.

A: I remember.

B: And I had met him before, but anyway, he just fell for me and I guess I fell for him. Anyway, we had a wonderful time. We used to do the silliest things. I do remember at nighttime--just thought it was awful to go barefooted and in our old beach clothes. And we went right up in front of the hotel--the Moana Hotel--and walked in around there and out. We just thought it was awful, going around barefooted that way. Just sort of dare-devil sort of thing to do. But in those days, of course, our bathing suits--I made my own and of course it had collars and sleeves and a skirt and long bloomers. The old style, you know.

A: Yes.

B: But it was kind of funny to look back at those things though. We had such a wonderful camping trip for, I guess it was, almost a week. And so we kinda got going together after that and then I'll skip right along to when we got married in 1912.

A: What month was it?

B: July. It was July--July 20, five days after my birthday. 1912. And of course I quit work and we lived up Manoa. Just to make people a little bit envious of those good old days, we had an apartment over--over what once was the stables at the Castle home, up on a hillside in Manoa. It was at one time the stables but they had just converted it to a--to a garage. Given up the horses and it's later they got a car to put there. But anyway, we had this little two bedroom--one bedroom was not finished, of course, but we had a nice kitchen, bedroom, living room, dining room, little hall, and we paid eight dollars a month for it.

A: Wow!

B: And we bought the furniture. J. C. Ewing and Rachel--they got married and they'd left here so we bought his furniture for three hundred dollars, which included a buffet I have over there, a piano, not this one but a small piano, and that's our kitchen table that I'm using for a dining room table there. That was the kitchen table and, well . . .

A: These are all at least sixty years old then. At least.

B: At least, yes. And the desk I have in my room. I still-- I still hung on to the old things, some of them. Well, anyway, where do I go from there?

- A: You were up in Manoa and you'd bought your furniture. All right, then you had your first child, I guess. (laughter)
- B: Yes. My first baby came along in June 23, 1913. Elizabeth Mae. And she was five pounds and two ounces and, oh boy, she was really wonderful. And Grandma Brown, at that time they were living on Maui. They had a homestead on Maui, but she came over and stayed with me for about seven weeks. Her family was five boys and they never had a girl and she was so thrilled with a little five-pound two-ounce baby girl. She just couldn't go back and leave it. 'Course I wasn't too well, too strong, but oh, she was just wonderful.
- A: This is Grandma Brown, now.
- B: Grandma Brown, yeh.
- A: What was Grandma Brown's first name?
- B: Elsie.
- A: Elsie.
- B: Elsie Louise. I named my second child after her.
- A: What was Grandpa Brown's?
- B: His was E. Herrick Brown. He was a books--book agent. Took orders for doctors' books and so forth.
- A: E . . . ?
- B: E. Herrick.
- A: Herrick.
- B: Edward Herrick Brown.
- A: Brown. H-E double R-I-C-K?
- B: Yes. Brown. They lived in a home on the hillside in Manoa Valley and when they sold it, they sold part of it to--I think it contained the house that--oh, let's see, what's the name of the fellow--this writer that stayed there? It now belongs--they sold part of their property to the Salvation Army, that run the Waioli Tea Room. Robert Louis Stevenson, was it?
- A: Oh yes.
- B: The small cottage in which Robert Louis Stevenson stayed,

that was part of their property at one time. They had quite a bit of property and the house was away up on the side of the hill. [In 1910, Edward Herrick Brown was manager of Brown & Lyon Company, Ltd. and resided at 2900 Upper Manoa Road. Evidently that property was sold the following year because the 1912 City Directory states: "Moved to Haiku, Maui." Later, the address of Waioli Tea Room is given as 2950 Upper Manoa Road. Currently, in 1979, the tea room is located at 3016 Oahu Avenue in Manoa.] And they had the five boys. Those were the days of horse-back riding. I know when Ralph used to come and see me, he'd ride his horse down. Occasionally he'd take me for a buggy ride around Diamond Head. (laughter) That's one place I remember. 'Course the cars--the automobiles came in a little later. I mean, a little before that--before I got married. But we used to--I can remember the first one that came around here in the streets there. We kids. We'd see it, hear it coming and see it coming and it was a red one. I don't know whether it was a Maxwell or what it was, but it must have gone all of thirty-five miles an hour. It went whiz, whizzing by, and we called it The Red Devil. (laughter)

A: That's what you called it, The Red Devil? Uh huh.

B: That's what we called it, yes. But I used to have a bicycle when I first came. My dad got me a bicycle and my pal, Ethelyn, she'd borrow her brother's--Melville's--bike and we'd take a bicycle ride down to Waikiki and go swimming and ride around the park and pick up dates and so forth at Kapiolani Park; ride back home.

A: Now when you say "pick up dates," do you mean the kind of real fruit date?

B: From the tree.

A: Not the other, 'cause there's an expression, you know, "Pick up dates." (laughter)

B: No, oh no, not that kind. No, we didn't think of those kind of dates. Ah, no.

A: On a bicycle, you went there?

B: Yes, we rode our bicycle down.

A: Well, my word.

B: Take a swim and ride back and we'd never see an automobile.

That was before the automobile days. But that's the earlier days. Not just at this time but earlier days.

A: Picked dates are actually good, huh?

B: Uh huh. [Yes]

A: I don't think they're here anymore.

B: I used to go to Punahou and pick up the dates too. They have date trees at Punahou. We used to go over and pick up the dates that dropped. And . . .

A: Okay, let's see. We're--we're . . .

B: Where I met Ralph and I started going with Ralph.

A: Yeh, and then you had your--and we got you married. Where were you married, by the way?

B: I was married in the Christian Church.

A: Um hmm. And that would be on Alakea, the one downtown.

B: On Alakea Street, near King, and there was just an empty lot on the corner, between King Street and another church.

A: Would it have been mauka side of King [toward the mountain]?

B: The mauka side, yes.

A: All right.

B: Umm. Well, Ralph got a job. He had worked at C. Brewer [and Company] for a little while and he gave that up.

A: What was he doing with them, at C. Brewer?

B: Actually, I don't know exactly what it was. He was just a beginner there so it was just sort of a--I don't know. He had something to do with taking--just messenger boy. Something, I don't know just what, and answering the phone and so forth, I believe. I'm not too sure. But he didn't work there too long because Mr. Guild of the paper--Honolulu Paper Company--offered him a job with a little more money and 'course that was just about the time we were getting married, or wanted to get married, and so he gave up [the C. Brewer and Company job]. He regretted it ever afterwards that he didn't stay with C. Brewer because it was such a good place. But he gave that up and took this job with the paper company.

- A: And this man was . . . Gill?
- B: Guild.
- A: Guild. G-U-I-L-D?
- B: Uh huh, at the Honolulu Paper. Don't remember his first name. But anyway, I think he offered him a hundred dollars a month and then he was to get a hundred and twenty-five six months later; and the end of the year, he'd get a hundred and fifty. And that's what we lived on in those days.
- A: Pretty good wages though.
- B: For those days.
- A: Yes.
- B: Later, he gave up that job and he went to Honolulu Construction and Draying Company.
- A: What did he do, though, at the Honolulu Paper? What kind of work was he . . .
- B: Well, it was in the office there and I don't know exactly what he did, whether he was handling the business. He was a good bookkeeper and businessman. Actually, I don't know. But . . .
- A: Then he went to Honolulu . . .
- B: He worked for the Honolulu Construction and Draying Company for quite a number of years in the office there, of course, taking calls and tending the business part of it. And then, in 1915, the second daughter was born. We named her after Grandma Brown, Elsie Louise, and that's two and a half years after Elizabeth was born. Our son was born after we moved to Kaimuki. In 1920, we moved to Kaimuki. Grandpa Brown had bought a place out here [in Kaimuki where she lives now]--a great big two-story place on Thirteenth Avenue--and wanted to know if we just didn't want to come out and share it with them and, I suppose, help with the payments on it. So we did that and at that time Ralph was working for the Ben Hollinger Company.
- A: Ben Hollinger.
- B: Hollinger Company. And he had tires and a garage and had to do with cars and so forth.
- A: And this was on Thirteenth Avenue at--was it here . . .?

- B: It was right back of where we live, three years. Right back of Louise's place. They finally sold it to McGraff. T. G. McGraff.
- A: It was on Thirteenth near . . .
- B: Between Harding and Pahoa.
- A: Harding and Pahoa.
- B: And they--Grandpa Brown sold--no, I guess that was after we bought our place. It was a little place for sale--the Frederick's place--on Koko Head Avenue, right next to their back yard. And so we bought that. [The 1920 City Directory lists T. J. McGrath as superintendent, Hawaiian Electric Company, residing at 1020 Thirteenth Avenue. John D. Frederick, a clerk, resided at 1033 Koko Head Avenue.]
- A: Now this Koko Head Avenue is actually Thirteenth Avenue now, isn't it? Or . . .
- B: No. No. It never was Thirteenth. It's between Twelfth and Thirteenth. Koko Head is the one that goes up kind of crooked.
- A: Oh, I see, and then there is a Thirteenth Avenue beyond Koko Head.
- B: Uh huh.
- A: Koko Head is between Twelfth and Thirteenth.
- B: Yes, it's a different one, all to itself. There's Twelfth and then Koko Head and then Thirteenth. It comes in between.
- A: I see. Okay.
- B: But I think--we bought this other little place and so Grandpa Brown sold the big place on Thirteenth Avenue and saved the last half, the Koko Head side, and built a house just the same as mine. The same pattern and all. Had it built there. So they lived right next to us for quite a number of years. Finally--later, Louise bought that place before it was taken over. But we lived in that house for forty years before the freeway came through and took my place and Louise's place. At that time we came up here.
- A: And also took Dr. and Mrs. Willis Cole's place too, didn't it?
- B: Yes, they took so many of our places. I used to cuss those

people in my mind for putting us out that way and taking our place because it was really a wonderful location, very convenient location. 'Course it was beginning to get a little bit noisy but it was so convenient there. And when you live in a place for forty years, you know, you kinda hate to be put out. But now, looking at it after the freeway is built, I can see what a wonderful thing it is for those that have cars. You can get out to Tripler[Hospital in Moanalua] in twenty minutes, whereas it'd take, oh, the longest time.

A: Much--really quite a long . . .

B: Oh yes. It's a wonderful saver for them. And I like the place we have here now. It's a much cooler and quieter--very quiet place.

A: What is the number of your address?

B: 709.

A: 709 Fifteenth Avenue.

B: Louise lives in the front half. They took both of our homes and we searched Kaimuki all over to find it. We weren't the ones who found it, but anyway, we ended up getting it through the (?). Just heard it was the right time and told us about it, so we're very happy here. Her place, the big place, was just right for her and her husband and three children. 'Course they've married now and are off now and she's got it alone. But I like my little cottage here.

A: Yes. Now if you came out to Kaimuki in 1920 and you lived in that house for forty years, then I guess the freeway was built in 1960, is that correct?

B: They took it 1962.

A: 1962.

B: So we moved up here in 1962.

A: Okay. Now . . . all right, now . . . during the--oh, I want to go back to Magoon's office now and Mary Low, remember?

B: Oh yes.

A: Before we go on to the other children. That will come later. What do you recall about Mary Low? Mary E. Low, I think, was her name.

B: I believe it was.

A: Uh huh. And she was Eben Low's sister.

B: Yes. She was a wonderful person and I used to enjoy--she knew everybody just about, especially from the Big Island [Hawaii]. She was quite interested in the Parker Ranch at that time and it was that time when Thelma Parker came home from school and how she met--what's his name?--Richard Smart on the boat coming down and 'course he--I don't know whether he fell for her but he fell for what she had anyway and they got married. 'Course I'd hear a lot of the inside about it from Mary.

A: Such as what, for instance?

B: Well, I don't know. It--I don't think I should go in there. I shouldn't.

A: Isn't that strange? Everybody . . . [is reluctant to speak on that subject]

B: He was a very attractive fella and I only met him once. I don't know as I actually met him but, at that time, they were having boat rides go around the harbor in the evening and Ralph and I went on one of these boat rides. He sat at the back of the boat and sang. He had a nice voice and he sang. That's all I can remember about him, 'cause I knew who he was and that stuff, but . . . but somehow it just seemed that he just didn't treat her right after they were married and took her back home to his folks and she wanted to come back here. I don't know. Just different little things like that which just--I didn't know too much about it. But Mary'd been quite huhu [angry or displeased] at him for, you know, the way he treated her at times.

A: What kind of a person--I mean, you say Mary E. Low is a wonderful person. Was she a pretty person or a . . . I mean, could you describe her a little bit?

B: Well, she was a big person, rather on the heavy side, not too heavy. And, oh, she knew everybody and she greeted everybody and she just had the aloha spirit for everybody. She's just a wonderful bookkeeper. She did her work well and all of that but she was a wonderful person to work with and to be around. Eben'd come in once in awhile. I'd see him come in.

A: I knew Eben Low also. What was your impression of Eben Low?

- B: Well, I never--I was kind of a quiet kid. I never talked to him or anything like that or anything, but I always admired him because he had one arm that was useless or something. It was just part of one, I guess it was. He was a cowboy, you know, and how we used to think cowboys were pretty wonderful people in those days. He didn't come in too often but every once in awhile I'd see him. Always kind of thrilled to see a cowboy.
- A: Did he always wear--did he wear cowboy clothing when he'd . . .
- B: He was a tall, rather a slim fellow, and I believe he-- seems to me he had his cowboy hat on. That's what I noticed more than anything else. But, ummm, I've never seen him in action or anything, 'cause not being up where the horses were, but he was a fine fellow. Used to think a lot of Eben. Let's see, what else.
- A: We were at--all right--moved to Kaimuki in 1920. Now, how many children were born by that time? Elizabeth, Elsie Louise, and . . .
- B: Ralph was born . . .
- A: Ralph.
- B: After that.
- A: After what?
- B: After we moved there in Kaimuki.
- A: It would be after 1920?
- B: He was born in 1920. He was born in 1920. Just about when . . .
- A: Ralph Junior, then?
- B: Yeh, it was before we bought our place. Ralph P. Ralph Pierpont [Brown] Jr. We were still living in Thirteenth Avenue when he was born and we bought the little place after that and moved over there. He was about eight months old, I guess, and running around. And then later, Grace was born about four years after that. She was born in 1924.
- A: There were four children then?
- B: Yes, four children.
- A: Gracie--Grace is the one I know best.

B: Yeh. She was born at eight months. I wasn't well at seven months and I guess we just saved her. Dr. Mobbs, he saved my life. I had kidney poisoning and she came at eight months and was 3-1/2 pounds.

A: Wow.

B: I had her--she was born up at the doctor's house at the corner. Dr. Mobbs lived in the corner there, across from the fire station.

A: Mobbs. M-O-B-B-S?

B: Right. Um hmm.

A: First name?

B: Bertie.

A: Bertie. Bertie Mobbs?

B: Yes, Bertie Mobbs. 'Course he passed away, but I don't remember just when. Quite a long time ago. But I went to a party for a ninety-year-old, Mrs. Tudor, and Violet Mobbs, his widow, was there. And we're still friends. She was a nurse. But, oh, when I was living down there, you might mention that Mother King lived--rented for about four years --three or four years lived in Louise's place. Louise was married and on the Coast. Her husband was in the Air Force. And Mother King rented the place. I think she was about ninety-two when she moved there and she was quite crippled with arthritis; her hands were crippled. To get around, she'd have to hold onto a chair and she'd move this chair a little bit and use that as her walker. But she took care of herself.

END OF SIDE 1/2ND TAPE

A: You're on again now, so you start with Mother King, I guess. "She took care of herself."

B: I had met her before. She had been married but had no children of her own but she used to go down to the Army and Navy Y, which at one time, used--when I first came here, that was the Royal Hawaiian Hotel and they changed it into the Army and Navy Y [YMCA]. And she'd go down on--well, every week, I know, she went and on special occasions and she'd pour punch for the boys that'd come in the afternoon. She was a regular mother to those boys and talked to them and she loved them all and they loved her. And I know that when she'd have a birthday or on Mother's Day, she'd

get over a hundred cards from these boys that she had met and known and they'd be off and married. Their wives would write to her and send pictures and she answered every one herself. Here she was, over ninety, and she had a nice handwriting. Clear handwriting. She'd answer those cards and kept in touch with all of her boys, as she called them. And she was really a very wonderful person. She lived there for four years before she was taken so sick. She was a nurse. She came here originally as a nurse. That was before the U. S. took over, when she first came down with a case. She told me just very little of it. And then she came back again and she worked at the Queen's Hospital for awhile. But she bought this home--her home--it was a big house, and in the yard she had cottages. She called it Cottage Grove. [1908 City Directory: Julia A. King (widow of Frank E.), 8 Cottage Grove. For many years, a number of Kings are listed at 1162 Young Street, which would have been somewhere between Piikoi and Pensacola Streets and in the vicinity of Cottage Grove.] And I know that when my husband came down here originally with the family in the first place, way back in 1906, just after the San Francisco earthquake--they came down here and they rented one of her cottages in Cottage Grove. So they have known her all those years.

A: You and your husband came down? From the--after the . . .

B: No, not her husband. Ralph's relatives.

A: Ralph's father.

B: Ralph's family, the whole family; five boys. Father and Mother Brown . . .

A: Came from San Francisco, then.

B: San Francisco, shortly after the earthquake.

A: Was that the reason they came?

B: No. No. They had a--they had a ranch out in Santa Clara Valley but he worked, helping to clear up (?) in San Francisco. Helped clear up some things after the earthquake. But Uncle Henry [Brown] had already come ahead of that and told them what a wonderful place this was to live.

A: Uncle Henry. Who's he?

B: Oh, Uncle Henry! You'll have to hear about Uncle Henry.

A: Okay, well then let's go first back to Mrs. King . . .

B: All right.

A: Mother King . . . and tell about--finish telling about her before we go on to the other one.

B: Well, as I say, she lived next to me for four years there and she was a very wonderful--very wonderful person. She must have suffered a lot with her arthritis and all, but you'd never know it. She never complained about a thing. She said that she was going to take care of herself as long as she could, and when she couldn't, they could put her in a hospital or anything they wanted and that was it. But I wasn't here at the time when they finally had to--she had to give up and she went up to Maunalani [Hospital] and she spent her last days up there. She was ninety-eight when she died.

A: Where did she--really, isn't that amazing [her age]--where did she have her Cottage Grove? Where was that located?

B: Now I'm not sure that it was always there, but the one I remember--formerly remember--was on King Street. I don't know the name of the street that goes down just before you get to the high school. Is it Piikoi?

A: Before what--oh, oh, by--you mean, McKinley High School?

B: Uh huh.

A: Umm. Just before that--oh dear . . .

B: Well anyway, she didn't have the corner lot but it was right next to the corner. She had this big, old two-story house and that's where she was living when I knew her.

A: So it was on King Street at Piikoi.

B: I'm not sure that it was Piikoi, but it was . . .

A: But next to it.

B: It wasn't just across, but it was just a little bit this side of--of--across from the high school.

A: This--this Diamond Head side, rather than Ewa side, of the high school.

B: Uh huh. But it was next to the corner. It wasn't the corner place. It was next to the corner. A big two-story house and it went right through to Young Street. And she still had some cottages there, so I'm not sure whether that

was the original one that Ralph had--that they'd called Cottage Grove. I think maybe it was. But she lived in the big house and she rented rooms, usually to nurses, being she was a nurse. And I think she started the Nurses'--what do they call it, this roll they make when you want a nurse and you call in for it?

A: Oh, oh, oh . . .

B: I think that actually started it. Her home.

A: Nurses' Exchange or something of that sort.

B: It wasn't exchange but it was something like that. But anyway, they started, in a small way, these nurses that were rooming with her--got together and they started it at her old place there. But she had--her place was always visited by these boys, these service boys. She'd meet them down at the Y and they'd come up and they'd have, sometimes, a party there. They'd always come to see her. They just thought the world of her. So she, really, a--just a wonderful person, to do what she did and it was part of her life. Her husband had passed away. She was alone. And 'course that's where Clark met her. Clark is the boy that my oldest daughter married. He was staying at her place for a bit then and she offered to let him fix up an apartment there. There was a place for a kitchen and then a bath with the room. Until he had found a home, so he did that and they spent their first couple of years there, after they were married. Beth was working for the Hawaiian Electric [Company] at that time and Clark, or course, was working for the Navy Yard at Pearl Harbor.

A: Clark's last name is . . .

B: McClish. Clark McClish.

A: Clark McClish. Now, you mention that your husband, before he was your husband, when he came--the Brown family came from San Francisco, they stayed there at Cottage Grove.

B: Well, they had rented one of the cottages.

A: Um hmm.

B: I'm not sure whether the whole family, or whether it was just Grandpa Brown and Ralph. I know Ralph was there with his father. I'm not too sure of it exactly.

A: All right. But they . . .

- B: But Mother King is an old, old-timer. She came down before they joined--you know, in the monarchy days. And she had come a time or two before when taking care of a patient. And I'm sure she worked at the Queen's there. That's when she first came.
- A: Now I had asked if the Browns came here because of the San Francisco fire and you said, No.
- B: No, not really. Uncle Henry and Aunt Edith, they were living at Wahiawa at the time.
- A: Now they were Ralph Brown's uncle . . .
- B: His father's brother, um hmm. And 'course they talked what a wonderful place this was and kind of encouraged them to come. So they came down with their five boys and they stayed out at Wahiawa with Uncle Henry and Aunt Edith for awhile when they first came, till they--I don't know how long, but I remember hearing Ralph telling about Uncle Henry. Aunt Edith--and I guess Uncle Henry too--they were school teachers. And they lived on Kauai for quite a long time, afterwards. They moved over to Kauai and were teaching on Kauai. Aunt Edith was a wonderful teacher. She taught the girls. She taught them sewing, cooking, and all kinds of things, as well as their school work. And they had had no children, but they adopted Anita--Anita Bell--just one little girl. She had curly hair. But . . . 'course Ralph loved, being out at Wahiawa there, riding horseback around. And 'course on the ranch up there where they were, he had his own horse and loved that.
- A: Santa Clara, you mentioned.
- B: In Santa Clara, yeh. And so, they were up there for quite a little while, then I guess they moved to town. Oh, I do know that Grandpa Brown worked. He was--he'd had a nervous breakdown before he came here and all I remember him doing was having a bookstore. He had a bookstore in the Arcade. I guess it's the same Arcade down between King and near Alakea there.
- A: Oh, really?
- B: Probably it is. I'm not sure. It's the only one I can think of. [1045 Bishop Street in 1910.]
- A: Uh huh.
- B: And he'd tour around the different islands at different times and visit the doctors and show them the latest doctor's

books and so forth and take orders and things.

A: Did I get his first name?

B: Edward.

A: Edward.

B: Edward Herrick.

A: Oh yeah, I did.

B: And he worked for the--what was that place? I can't think of the name of it now--part of the time, but most of the time he was on his own.

A: It was his own bookstore, then.

B: At that time it was his bookstore. What was that news? Hawaiian News or something. Was there a Hawaiian News? No? Some store on--used to be on Bishop Street. That's where he was working at the time he died. Of course, oh! To go back to where we were living on Koko Head Avenue. Grandpa Brown sold his Thirteenth Avenue place and he built right next to me. So it was just wonderful, having them live next door and, oh, they just enjoyed the little kiddies so much. And they just loved Grandpa Brown and Grandma Brown. It was just so wonderful. They were wonderful parents.

A: What was her first name?

B: Elsie. I think you got her name.

A: I think I did. I always want to be sure I get these names.

B: Elsie Louise. Elsie Louise Gilbert. She named one of her boys Gilbert after her. Oh yes. They had five boys--Herrick--Herrick Crosby Brown. He went to Yale and went into the life insurance business for Prudential [Insurance Company] and opened up the Oakland--a place in Oakland and lived there. He's still alive. Then Gilbert came next. He worked for the telephone company for awhile, then, and Von Hamm Young, mostly. And then, Gordon. He went to Yale. Graduated from Yale and he worked for the water works. Gordon D. He retired just awhile ago and he's still in Honolulu.

A: Oh yes, I remember. The Board of Water Supply.

B: Yeah, the Board of Water Supply.

A: Gordon Brown.

B: Then there was Donald. He was the youngest and I don't know as he had a job here. He went to school here, finished school and he went back East and back to New York at the time when he died. He had a tumor of the brain. It took him before he knew it. But they were all good business people in the islands here. You know what? I've got a book on Grandpa Brown and Ralph. They both got in Who's Who in Hawaii and Men of Hawaii . . .

A: Oh really.

B: And Builders of Hawaii.

A: Oh good. What year was that?

B: Ho, a way back. I don't know. I still have one of them here. I gave one to Ralph and I still have one. Turn that off (the recorder).

A: The years were . . . you tell what years. 1921. They were in Men of Hawaii.

B: Oh. Yes. Both Ralph and his father were in Men of Hawaii in 1921 and 1930, I believe the other was. And I think they were both in Builders of Hawaii. But I don't--it came out in between these or around about the same decade anyway. And that's the one I gave to Ralph Jr.

A: All right. I'm going to just read this information into--onto the tape: "Ralph Pierpont Brown, businessman, Honolulu. Born at Melrose, Massachusetts August 6, 1891. Son of E . . .

B: August 26, it should be.

A: August 26, 1891. Son of E. Herrick and Elsie Gilbert--that's her maiden name--Brown. Married Elizabeth Jane Webster at Honolulu, July 20, 1912. Three children--at that time--Elizabeth Mae, Elsie Louise, and Ralph Pierpont Jr. Attended McKinley High School, Honolulu, 3 years. With American-Hawaiian SS Co. (Steamship Co., I think it must be) 1911-12; C. Brewer & Co., Ltd., 6 months; American-Hawaiian Paper Co., Ltd., 1912-1915; Honolulu Construction & Draying Co., 1915-1918; Vice President and Treasurer, Honolulu Rubber Works Ltd.; and then, Hollinger & Co., Ltd., Honolulu, since 1918. Lt., National Guard, Hawaii; member of Knights of Pythias, Elks, Healan Boat Club (that's H-E-A-L-A-N-I), and the Ad Club."

Now let's see what . . .

B: I'd almost forgotten about it.

A: Well, these are the things that, since they are here, why, might just as well get them on the tape, not tax you with doing this part of it.

B: Yes.

A: About Edward Herrick Brown, it says: "Bookseller, Honolulu. Born May 14, 1864 at Andover, Massachusetts. Son of Thaddeus Howe and Lydia W. Herrick Brown (that's where the Herrick comes from--her maiden name). Descendent of William of Scotland who located at Billerica, Massachusetts in 1668 (that's B-I double L-E-R-I-C-A). Married Elsie Gilbert at Andover, Massachusetts, June 26, 1890. 5 children: Ralph P., Herrick C.; Gordon D.; Gilbert H.; Donald S. Educated in New Haven, Massachusetts. Began career as publisher of the Homestead Monthly in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1883; with Pilgrim Press, Boston, 1886; mgr. wholesale dept. in charge Chicago branch, 1893; fruit grower, Mt. View, Calif., 1900. Removed to Honolulu 1906 and entered book business. Incorporated 1908. Sold out 1911. On Island of Maui, 1911-1915. Book business in Honolulu since 1915. Member Congregational Clubs, Chicago and Boston; Commercial; Outrigger Canoe, Ad Clubs, Honolulu YMCA (and the Ad Clubs, in parentheses, is Honolulu), President of Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club, 1921."

Okay. That's all that's said here about them, so we'll continue with your story.

B: Oh, where was I? (laughter)

A: Well, we were--we were talking about--well, in a way . . .

B: Turn it off (the recorder). Is it off?

A: . . . we were skipping about.

B: Turn it off 'til I'm ready . . . (the recorder is turned off) . . . before I went back to work.

A: Grace was nine years old before you returned--went back to work?

B: Uh huh. And Grandma Brown lived next door. As I say, they lived next door so I felt that it was okay if I just did go back to work. Ralph had had a nervous breakdown and . . .

A: When did he have that? What year?

- B: Ummm. Let's see, three and nine. She must be thirty-one.
- A: Thirty-one?
- B: Around 1931. '30 or '31. And . . . (strange noise on tape)
- A: (laughing) No, here, you've got your thumb on this, see.
- B: Ohhh, I see. I wonder if I did it before.
- A: No, you didn't. But you've got to turn it toward you, not me. (more mechanical noises)
- B: Is it off?
- A: No.
- B: (speaking of her husband, Ralph) . . . never came back so that he could hold a job. He had to give up that job.
- A: It was because he was overworked. He had the bookkeeping and everything else to do at Hollinger's.
- B: He was a very conscientious worker and he worked hard and he even worked weekends and all. I don't think I should put that into it. He did it on his own. He wasn't compelled to.
- A: No, he just--he was a hard--a conscientious person, so.
- B: I don't want that part about him . . . (on the record).
- A: . . . Hollinger garage.
- B: They had two places. The tire company, too, was part of it and he [Ralph Brown, Sr.] was working for Ben and he had the use of the car there and, oh, he'd come home and take us out on picnics here and there over the weekend. He had the--he hadn't owned a car but, I mean, that's the car that we used. He had the full use of it as part of his salary. And he'd take us kids--take me and the kids--he'd come home a little early perhaps and agreed to go on a picnic. We'd go out to Koko Head and there wasn't a road around there and we'd come to a little place where you had to go across a little stream. It seems so funny now, to think of that place in the condition it was then. And in the old days we'd go around through a lot of farms and things to get to --to the Koko Head--the Blow Hole Section there. And oh, the sand was deep and just beautiful there at that time. It was just so wonderful. Very few people there. But it was --

we had so much fun there, playing in the sand. And we had good times but then came the time when Ralph was a little bit overworked, I guess. As I said, he used to work week-ends, too, at times. He was a very conscientious fellow and he really had the books to take care of and people to meet and talk to and all. I think it was just too much for him. He had a nervous breakdown. Doctor recommended that he go to the Coast for awhile and get away from everything but he didn't think he could, so it finally got so bad that he just had to give up his job. And after that, I went to work. I went up to Phillips and brushed up for about three months and brushed up on my shorthand and typing.

A: Phillips Commercial School.

B: Phillips Commercial School. My oldest daughter had just graduated. She was taking--instead of going to college, with Ralph sick, she decided she'd study too and she went up to Phillips Commercial School for a year and studied there and got her first job as a--with the Hawaiian Electric as secretary. And I went up for three months and brushed up, and well, I worked for the WPA. It was one of the first real jobs I had. WPA had just started. [Work Projects Administration] I worked with the payroll section and the administration part of it. And I guess I worked there all through the--through those days when they changed with WPA and . . .

A: What--now what . . . ?

B: Oh, alphabetical.

A: Yes. That was the beginning of the alphabetical thing.

B: It was the beginning of it, yes.

A: What did that WPA stand for?

B: Work Projects--what?

A: Administration.

B: Administration. Work Projects Administration. And then, well, it changed to different things but it was the same thing. And while--no, just before I went there, I did work with Judge Carrick H. Buck. She wasn't judge at that time. Carrick Buck. And, . . . [Miss Carrick H. Buck became the first woman assistant United States District Attorney (Advertiser 5/2/1925) and the first woman judge (Star-Bulletin 7/23/1934). Her career has been quite notable.]

A: Carrick?

B: C-A double R-I-C-K. And she was such a wonderful person. And she kinda gave me a job just to get me back into my working again. And she helped me out in quite a number of ways. One of the ways was getting my--I wanted to take Civil Service tests and I couldn't because I was--well, I was born in Canada and I became a United States citizen actually by marrying Ralph, but I had to get papers to prove that I married him, that he was an American, so she helped me out in that way and had people that I knew to testify and--what do you call those things, take a . . . ?

A: Witness.

B: Yeh, and it had it written out and to send it back. Well anyway, she helped me all through that process of being recognized as an American citizen. And I took the Civil Service test. And at that time, that was about the time my son graduated from high school and he wanted to, because Dad was sick, go to work too and help out. So he went down and took the test for the apprenticeship at Pearl Harbor and he passed. I don't know whether it was--probably an oral test--he got--passed 98 percent. And he wanted to be an electrician. Nothing else. Electrician or nothing. And I have to laugh every time I think about it. There were three jobs open that year and not one was for an electrician. So I'm thankful that he went to the university for a year. Studied for a year. He couldn't go to Pearl [Harbor] so he went to university and studied for a year there and at the end of the year--I wished--wished I'd had sense enough to make him stay on and graduate from the university but he was anxious to get out to Pearl Harbor and as an electrician. A job came up for him--an opening came up and that was just shortly before the war. And 'course when the war started, they were just taking them on. They couldn't get enough people to come in. It was just ironic really, the way they just hired so many. But anyway, I stayed with the WPA until that finally--no--yes, it finally closed out, I think. I had . . .

A: It served its purpose and it was ended.

B: It served its purpose. And they--as I say, I had passed the Civil Service test and the only trip I've taken away from here back to Canada was in 1941--no 1940, just before the war. We were told to take our leave and my niece was down here so Louise and I went back home with her, back to Vancouver. And I had a wonderful vacation. But while I was away, my name came up for a job at the Civil Service and I wasn't here to answer, so of course I had to take the

test all over again to get on the roll again. I took it at least twice before--no, the first time my name came up, the year was finished before my name came up. The first time. The second time I took it, I was still on the roll again and then it came up while I was away. So, when the WPA was closing out, a number of the workers were taken over by the [U.S. Army] Corps of Engineers and I was one of them. So from there on, I worked for the Corps of Engineers, I guess it was about--over fifteen years with the Corps of Engineers. And later I was able to buy in my six years that I had worked for--it was considered a federal job so I bought in my . . . so when I retired I had a little over twenty-one years to my credit for my annuity, for which I'm very thankful. And I worked until I was sixty-six before I retired. But I've had a wonderful retirement since then, traveling.

A: In what year did you retire? Let's see, that would have been . . .

B: It was in 1957.

A: '57. And you had worked twenty-one years then for the federal government.

B: Um hmm. I think it's a little over that, twenty-one. I don't know whether it was 21, 22, or 23 or somewhere around there. A little over twenty anyway. And 'course all my children were married by that time and so I spent quite a bit of time and I travelled around to see them and I've really had a wonderful retirement, including a trip to Europe in the old days. There were 138 of us and we went on a trip through thirteen different countries. Over six weeks' trip and it was less than a thousand dollars.

A: Imagine. Oh my.

B: You couldn't get it now, but that was wonderful. And my children are married and scattered. One living in California. I had the privilege of visiting them and seeing the world too. Then I went to Amarillo, where Louise was staying; and I went to Virginia where Grace was. And you know when they're in the service that way, they get around too. So I've really had a wonderful time, whisping around. I now have sixteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. I had one born just last week that you don't know about.

A: No, I don't.

B: That's my son's daughter. It's his first grandchild. He's a grandpa now.

END OF SIDE 2/2ND TAPE

BEGINNING OF SIDE 1/3RD TAPE

B: Harris.

A: Oh yes. And she was--she had a place on Anapuni Street.

B: They lived on the corner of Hastings--[1839] Anapuni and Hastings. Big two-story place.

A: And this is where my mother lived for some years?

B: Yeh. Yeh, they built this big place and they had five children--Melville C. Harris, Ethelyn Harris; then they had twins, Vernal and Vera, who changed her name to Verna later; and then Thelma. [Mr. Harris] worked for Williams as bookkeeper at night. And he was a bookkeeper there, did the bookkeeping for Williams, the undertaker, I know. And he had another job too. He was a night watchman, but he was very hard of hearing. And he was a very quiet fellow. So, evidently, you know, to make ends meet, she rented. The house was too big for all of them, so she rented a couple of rooms and the girls that stayed there--there was Edith Perkins and her sister, Edna; and Katherine Hannestad and Rose Peck. Well, they never had more than four at a time, I don't think, but anyway, those are the names I remember most and they lived there.

A: Is that building still there, at that . . .

B: I don't think it is now. I haven't been up around there lately, but when Ethelyn came back one time, we went up to see. After her folks died, the place was sold and I think the university, they bought it for the place for the teachers.

A: Oh, university . . . AAUW. AAUW has that building now. [American Association of University Women]

B: Something like that. Now if they could still have it, I don't know, but they--I know it was somebody from the university that had it when Ethelyn came back. And we stopped in, asked if we could go through the place and went upstairs to see the old place where the kids lived. I lived there about half the time. I mean, I wasn't at home, I was up at her place. She was down at my place. Two blocks apart but we were just pals, wonderful pals.

And we used to have such wonderful times. We all went to the same church, the Christian Church. They'd have church socials there and all the boys, Mel's friends, would

come around and gather there out on the lawn and on the terrace. And they had this big lanai on one side and across the front, with a little lounge place on the corner and a table there and benches around and we used to play cards and games and used to have a wonderful time there. And Mrs. Harris just--she knew where her kids were and she just loved to have them all come. It was a sort of a hangout.

A: Yes.

B: I spent half my time up there, I guess, when I was, you know. If I wasn't up there, she'd come down to my house. We used to play cards a lot in those days. Loved to play cards. Bill Raseman and his mother lived up in--in Harris's house at one time too. She fixed up a sort of a little stove there, an apartment just enough for them. And I think Edith Perkins was still living there at that time. Edith and--not Edna--I'm not too sure. Maybe it was afterwards, after they left, that Bill and his mother lived there. But the Harris house was really a . . .

A: Gathering place for young people.

B: Gathering place for the gang. Oh, one thing. 'Course we girls, Ethelyn and I, were the only two girls really. Abby'd come sometimes. She was younger. But we'd be around there and there'd be a whole gang of the boys. Then of course there was the younger ones. But they had to go to bed early. And they hated to climb those stairs to go to bed while we were having a game of cards in the living room there. Sometimes in the living room. We'd see them peeking over and, you know, just wishing they were old enough to do it. But it was a gathering place for all the boys. It was a whole big gang. There's the Tinker boy--Vernon Tinker. Later, the older boy. And Zen Johnson and . . .

A: Zen. Z-E-N?

B: Zen. Zen Johnson.

A: Interesting name.

B: Oh, they were Mel's friends. I can't think of any of them now. But those were--that was before I was married. Oh boy, we had such good times. And almost every Sunday, we'd go for a hike. We'd go up Makiki Valley. That's where they had that water--they have a water tank there. They cleaned it out every once in awhile. The water company have a place up there. I forget what they call it. But anyway, we'd go up that way--we'd go up the valley a little way and then climb up to Tantalus, instead of going up Round Top.

We'd climb up Tantalus; take a short cut and we'd get up to what they used to call a half-way house and there's a store up there. You had to pay ten cents for your bottle of soda water in those days. They were only five cents down below but up there it was ten cents. But we were so thirsty. Climb up to the half-way house and play around there a bit. Usually that's as far as we'd go on a Sunday. But Sunday afternoon, we'd almost always go on a hike up the mountains. We'd get up there and sometimes play in the ginger and splash ginger over each other and so forth, you know. It was just rough house and have a good time. My brother, Alan, used to go with us too. Alan, Mel, and Bill Raseman.

A: Bill Raseman. That's R-A-S-S-M-A-N.

B: R-A-S-E.

A: R-A-S-E.

B: Um hmm. Bill Raseman. His mother was a widow and they lived at Ellie's. But we used to have such good times.

A: Now let's see if there is anything else that you can. . . . It does sound like fun. I can almost picture it.

B: They were good times, you know.

A: Yes.

B: I also remember Alan and his pals going up the mountains to hunt for land-shells. I think they found them in the trees and bushes up there. My husband's brother, Gordon Brown, has a nice collection of land-shells.

Before 1910 sometime, Alan and his friend, Bill Paty, got a summer job in construction work and helped to build the first short tunnel on the mauka-Ewa side of Diamond Head. I saw it later, after it was finished, and as I recall there was a cement platform at the outside opening. Four canons that could be turned in any direction had been placed there. Alan enjoyed the digging and shoveling so much that he later dug a small room under the back of our house as a hide-away for himself.

[The two paragraphs above were added by Elizabeth Jane Brown in 1979 when she edited this transcript.]

One time there was a--up Manoa. . . . In those days, our fire engines were drawn by horses. They didn't have mechanized machines. And we heard the fire engines go and 'course we'd always run to see. And we all ran. The gang was up at Ellie's. And we ran over. We went up Punahou Street and up Punahou hill to the top of the hill there and it was this great big new building, just completed. I think it was a big two-story house, just ablaze. 'Course

we girls, took us longer to get up there, but the boys went and they helped push the fire-engine wagon to help the horses get that up that hill. When we got to the top, it was just all ablaze and it just stood out just beautiful before it fell in.

A: I wonder whose place that was.

B: Instantaneous combustion. It was in the painting stages and I guess they'd left some--I can't remember the name of the people now, that built it. I hope it was insured. 'Course we saw the fire when they built the Punahou principal's house too. That was built up and that, the first one, was burned. Yeh, on Rocky Hill there. It was burned and similar way, I guess. I don't know whether it was instantaneous combustion or what, but it may have been.

A: That was Rocky Hill. That would have been that same hill then, on the other side, though.

B: It's on--yes, it's just a continuation of Punahou, the school. Now it's--it's part of it, I guess, now.

A: Yes.

B: I don't know where--where this thing--I was up there last year on account of this prep school that was--Bishop Hall that was--they built this new Bishop Learning Museum. Museum. (chuckle) Learning Institute. Institute, anyway. And the last time I drove by there, old Bishop Hall has been taken away. Evidently it had given away underneath and it was not a very safe place, so. But I was up there and I could see--we went up through the--through the principal's home up there. We were invited up there after the tour around through the place. And I went through their place. I guess it was the first time I've gone through the school buildings--the principal's home.

A: But is that the same location as the other one?

B: It's the same one.

A: Same location.

B: Built in the same location. I was trying to think where the fence was. It was just a--past that, it seems to me. It was still--which kind of divided Rocky Hill. I don't think they had all of Rocky Hill in Punahou.

A: But you saw that one too. I guess so, if you were that closeby and heard the fire siren.

B: I didn't go up to that one, but, I don't know--we could see the--sort of see the blaze from our place down there. Knew it was burning.

A: Where was the--where was the fire engine stationed at that time?

B: The same place.

A: Came from that same fire station.

B: Is it Piikoi Street? And Wilder?

A: Somewhere around there.

B: I think it's up . . .

A: Oh yeh, it is on Wilder Avenue.

B: It's still there and 'course the Punahou car went right past there and you'd see those horses, standing right there at the door, just ready to be loosened and sent off.

One of the characters--the only ones I know of--the Ward sisters that had the Old Plantation, you remember, next to the high school there.

A: Yes.

B: Lucy Ward. She used to dress--shirtwaist and a hat that was kind of mannish, you know, and she drove a little horse and buggy. She was the, I guess the Humane Society--you'd be calling a humane officer and she'd drive around. Every once in awhile we'd see her driving around the streets there. 'Course the kids didn't--were scared I guess 'cause they'd be throwing a rock at a dog or something, you know, and she--she was very cross if she caught them doing anything like that. She was really a good officer, very good. But she's the only one I know much about of the Ward sisters. They had that place next to the high school [McKinley High School], the three of them. (the recorder is turned off)

B: Our good times were mostly hikes. We'd go to the beach and swim and things like that. And sometimes we'd take a ride to the end of the street car [line]. It only cost a nickel in those days to the end of the Waikiki street car.

But I do remember when they started to open up Wilhelmina Rise. There was one street going up. That's Wilhelmina Rise. What do they call it?

A: Wilhelmina Rise.

- B: Wilhelmina Rise. And as an advertisement, they had street lights going up and, about three-fourths of the way up there, they put street lights across so that at night this was just a cross, stood there. And it was very attractive, you know. I just loved to see that cross. And we'd take, as I say--we'd go out to Waikiki. You could see it from there. We couldn't see it from where I lived especially but we'd take a ride out to Waikiki and you could see that from--and all the boats coming in and all that must--must have seen it, you know. It was very attractive. It was very good advertising, I think.
- 'Course Grandpa Brown bought two or three lots up there in the olden days but I think he died, I guess, before they were sold. But that was before it was really built up. We used to go up there. Hikes with the kids. When my kids were little, we'd take a hike up there. I used to go with them once in awhile. We'd go to the top of Wilhelmina Rise and go over the little ridge in the back and sometimes a little bit further, but I never went too far.
- A: I wonder when it was started--the development of it was begun. Do you remember about what time--what year that was? That they started building up on Wilhelmina?
- B: Well, they didn't do it to any great extent for a long time. It was really a long time. When we were going up there hiking, there was only a few houses sold or built up there, on account--at the time that they were put--this advertising lights up there as an advertisement stunt. There were people bought the lots, I guess, but there weren't too many homes built there.
- A: What--about what . . . ?
- B: When we'd hike up there, when the kids were little, there'd be some families--I suppose the--I'd say it was the Chinese that had gardens up there.
- A: Oh really?
- B: And, ah, the carnations. They had carnations for leis. In those days they used them more. These other--plumerias, those were graveyard flowers. Just the only place you'd see them was in the graveyards, practically.
- A: I remember that.
- B: Used to call them graveyard flowers. But they grew carnations. And at one time, they had pineapples planted up there. They tried pineapples but I guess they didn't do too well, because they kinda let the fields die out. So

we'd go on a hike. Sometimes we'd come back with a little old pineapple that had just sprung out.

A: When you say the kids were little, then it would have been after 1920.

B: Yeh, exactly 1920, after I moved out here.

A: Yeh. It would have been in the twenties sometime. And that cross was up there in the twenties?

B: No, it was up there before that.

A: It was?

B: Yes. That was up there--I think it was put up there before I was married. [before 1912]

A: Oh really, that early?

B: Uh huh. Yes, I'd say that it was 1910--'11. Around there sometime. But it didn't--it wasn't really opened up. And I just heard that it was put up there for an advertisement, you know, to attract people. They were trying to sell lots or something. Not too many people were building.

A: I guess so. And of course 1929 came along when--during the Depression that would be--not many people were building then.

B: But there was more at that time, 'cause Grandpa Brown, he had his lots at that time, about then, just before he died. And . . .

A: When did he die?

B: Oh. Was it '29? What does that book say?

A: Oh, I don't think it tells about that. Maybe . . .

B: No, maybe it doesn't.

A: Uh uh, it couldn't because these are living people.

B: That was '21.

A: This is the '30 one.

B: That was '30?

A: This one is the '30 that I'm looking at now but . . .

B: Well, if he's in '30, maybe it'll give his death there, because I think it was about 1929.

A: Well . . .

B: Well, maybe it wasn't. A little bit after that. Anyway, he had bought several lots. Gordon was living up there at that time, because there were still--there were quite a few houses on the lower part there. And Gordon was living there.

A: Gordon Brown?

B: Yes.

A: Yes, he and his [wife] . . .

B: Sandy.

A: Sandy. Now they're living on Ward Street, I think, in one of these condominiums.

B: I think so, in one of these--yes. Uh huh. She's retired now, so I don't know whether they're still in town or not. They go on trips and so forth.

A: And see, he's not in this one [Grandpa Brown, i. e., in the 1930 Men of Hawaii].

B: He isn't in that one?

A: No, huh uh. So he might have--it might have been 1929 then.

B: No, I say '29 because I really think--it was in '29 when I had my operation and I was--no, long before that--I was living in this place . . .

A: See, what I'm trying to establish is when they started building on Wilhelmina Rise.

B: Yes, but . . .

A: 'Cause that's kind of interesting about that cross being put up there as an advertisement.

B: But it was there for a long, long time and you didn't see any--you didn't notice any building going on. I think people bought lots. It was probably just . . .

A: Getting started.

B: Yeh, just perhaps for an investment and thinking someday

they'd build on it. Can't remember when Gordon was there, but there were quite a few houses at that time. But Grandpa Brown had one place about half-way up. He'd sold one away up. About half-way up. I mention it, in connection with his death, because before he went to work that day, he went up to this lot. It had a little shack on it and he went up to this place. And I just don't know whether he ran or not but I know that he used to run, you know, and uphill too. And he hadn't had any heart trouble or anything before that but he had this attack and it just took him very sudden. Gilbert called up from the office. I guess they'd call in and said that his dad was sick. He was working at the news company out on Bishop Street at the time. It was a paper company. And so Gilbert called up Grandma Brown and said to come on down and she didn't get there in time . . . he died before she got there.

A: What year did your husband, Ralph, die?

B: Ahh--1949. April 19th. He didn't work for a number of years before he died. Wasn't able to.

A: 1949 . . . We're almost to the end of this tape now and I wonder if there's anything else that you could speak of . . .

B: Switch it off for a few . . . (the recorder is turned off)

A: Well, I think that you've been--I'm wearing you out here, probably.

B: No. I really enjoy talking about these things but I'm just worried about trying to make a story out of it.

END OF SIDE 1/3RD TAPE

END OF INTERVIEW

Transcribed and edited by Katherine B. Allen, 1979

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THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In May 1971, the Watumull Foundation initiated an Oral History Project.

The project was formally begun on June 24, 1971 when Katherine B. Allen was selected to interview kamaainas and longtime residents of Hawaii in order to preserve their experiences and knowledge. In July, Lynda Mair joined the staff as an interviewer.

During the next seventeen months, eighty-eight persons were interviewed. Most of these taped oral histories were transcribed by November 30, 1972.

Then the project was suspended indefinitely due to the retirement of the foundation's chairman, Ellen Jensen Watumull.

In February 1979, the project was reactivated and Miss Allen was recalled as director and editor.

Three sets of the final transcripts, typed on acid-free Permalife Bond paper, have been deposited respectively in the Archives of Hawaii, the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii, and the Cooke Library at Punahou School.